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THE JUDICIAL DICTIONARY OF WORDS AND PHRASES, JUDICIALLY INTERPRETED, TO WHICH HAVE BEEN ADDED STATUTORY DEFINITIONS. By F. STROUD, of Lincoln's Inn, Barrister-at-Law, Recorder of Tewkesbury. Three volumes. Second Edition. London: Sweet & Maxwell, Ltd., 3 Chancery Lane; Stevens & Sons, Ltd., 119 and 120 Chancery Lane. Boston, U.S.A.: The Boston Book Company, 1903.

In the beginning of his preface the author himself says that, "Good or bad, it is believed that this book is unique." We agree that the work, as well as the idea upon which it is based, is unique, and, further, consider it decidedly good.

The work does not attempt to take the place of the regular law lexicon in defining all the words one may encounter in legal work, but gives the interpretation of common legal terms and phrases as established by prominent jurists of the English courts and by statutory definition. By comparison of these the author seeks to show the general and authoritative acceptance of these terms, thus to give them a more definite and well-settled significance than has formerly attached thereto.

The fundamental idea and object of the book seems well expressed by one of its title-page quotations: "It is of the utmost importance that in all parts of the Empire where English law prevails, interpretation should be, as nearly as possible, the same."—*Trimble v. Hill*, 5 App. Cas. 345. And the well-known fact that so many apparent legal contradictions and disagreements of courts are ultimately traceable to a difference in use and conception of terms, and not in any fundamental difference in idea, shows strongly for the truth of this statement, and for the fitness of such a work as Mr. Stroud's.

There are, in all, references to over sixteen thousand cases and to an extensive list of statutes, which latter are indexed chronologically. In addition to the dictionary proper, the work includes a short chapter on the Construction of Documents, and the Interpretation Act of 1889 is given in the Appendix.

The work is accurate and complete so far as the English courts and English statutes are concerned. There are, however, very few American cases referred to, and consequently the work is not of so much value to the American practitioner, except in so far as one may be of the opinion that American jurists would construe our language the same judicially as English jurists have done, but for general reference it is a valuable addition to any library.

J. B. C.